

Refugees welcome: Exploring mediated discourses of hospitality and refugee representation in New Zealand



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Overview

- Introduction
- Research outline
- Refugee representation and the media
- New Zealand media analysis
- Conclusion
- References



Introduction

- World facing biggest refugee crisis since WWII
(UNHCR, 2016)
- Myth and misinformation about refugees and asylum seekers in the media (Gale, 2004; UNHCR, 2016)
- Politics of fear
(Devetak, 2004; Gale, 2004; Pugh, 2004)



Introduction

“Once in a while, an image breaks through the noisy, cluttered global culture and hits people in the heart and not the head” (Wall Street Journal, 11 September, 2015)



Introduction



#RaiseTheQuota
New Zealand, it's time to raise our refugee quota.

Research Outline

- Critical discourse analysis - NZ Herald and Stuff, September 2015 (Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 2008)
- How are refugees represented in the NZ mainstream media?
- Relationship between these representations and imaginings of hospitality and welcome

Refugee Representation

- Media representations sit within complex discourses of security and hospitality (Bleiker, Campbell, & Hutchison, 2014)
- Stereotypical notion of 'refugeeness' (Malkki, 1996)



Refugee Representation

Discourses of security,
threat and fear



Refugee Representation

Discourses of
compassion, empathy
and humanity



(Rajaram, 2002; Malkki, 1996)

Refugees Welcome

Discourses of hospitality and welcome



Role of the media

- Media shapes public perceptions about refugees
(Lynn & Lea, 2003; O'Neill, 2010; Jacobs, 2011)
- Words + images = particular reality or truth
(Wright, 2002; Bleiker et al, 2014)
- Can influence how refugees are welcomed



NZ Media Analysis

- Strong ethical and moral argument in media on raising refugee quota
 - » Shaming the government
 - » NZs long humanitarian tradition
 - » Refugees as victims
 - » Moral duty to help



NZ Media Analysis

- Ethics of hospitality – duty to assist those in need (Gibney, 2004)
 - » Refugee as hurt and vulnerable stranger
 - » ‘Colonialism of compassion’ (Hyndman, 2000, p. xxii)



NZ Media Analysis

- Imaginings of nationhood (Dauvergne, 2005; Bauder, 2015)
 - » ‘Narcistic samaritanism’ (Kapoor, 2005)
 - » Determines humanitarian policies



NZ Media Analysis

- Conditional hospitality – states control entry
(Derrida, 2001)
- Caring at a distance (Hyndman, 2000)



Concluding Remarks

- Consequences of stereotypical representations of refugees
- Power relations involved in acts of hospitality
- Value and limitations of these discourses in resettling refugees



Questions? Comments?



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